

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated July 11, 2006. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due consideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 27-28 are under consideration in this application. Claims 23-26 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 27-28 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicants' invention.

The claims are being amended to correct formal errors and/or to better recite or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 27 was allowed, and claim 28 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

As claim 28 is being rewritten in independent form to include all limitation of the base claim and intervening claims, it is in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,059,899 to Farnworth et al. in view of US Patent No. 6,356,095 to Komoriya.

Since Claims 23-26 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection thus becomes moot.

Conclusion

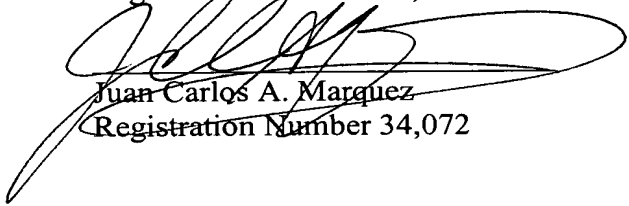
In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more

than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344


Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

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SPF/JCM/JT